OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS
INSPECTIONS UNIT

ALPR Audit
1st Quarter FY 26-27

Completed: 8-5-2026

Purpose

DOI 1110-07 outlines the management of Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) and Internet Protocol camera systems. Specifically, the policy states that "All data obtained and stored through the use of ALPRs is considered a record of a criminal investigation pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 132-1.4 and shall be used solely for the purpose of attempting to prevent, solve, or detect violations of the law." This data is classified as criminal intelligence and is part of a criminal investigation, therefore it is not a public record. The policy also specifies the procedures for data storage and preservation. According to the policy and relevant general statutes, the ALPR system must undergo an annual audit. Additionally, the Inspections Unit is responsible for conducting quarterly audits of the ALPR systems to evaluate their usage and effectiveness.

Method

The Raleigh Police Department currently utilizes two ALPR systems, FLOCK and Vigilant LEARN. A representative from the Inspections unit maintains an administrative license to both systems for purposes of conducting periodic audits. There are five areas inspected during the quarterly audit: user accounts, devices, transactions/queries, reason codes, and outcomes. Inspection of these areas helps ensure compliance with NCGS 132-1.4 and NCGS 20-183.32, as well as providing data on the use and effectiveness of the systems.

For this audit, a member of the Inspections Unit selects a 30-day period during the fiscal quarter and runs queries for each of the focus areas within the confines of that particular system. Not all information is available from each system due to the design of the programs.

Inspection

The Inspections Unit conducted an audit of the FLOCK and Vigilant LEARN systems. Data was pulled from each system for the month of July 2026 (7/1/26 – 7/31/26).

FLOCK

Users

On the date the data was pulled, there were 416 users listed as active, and 87 users were in deactivated status. 198 users had not logged in during this period.

Devices

There are 29 active FLOCK devices, one of which is a FLEX camera that is fully operational.

Transactions

During the month of July 2026, there were a total of 5,911 queries conducted in the FLOCK database. For searches that did not include a case number, they contained sufficient information in the reason field to confirm that the search was conducted for a legitimate law enforcement purpose.

Outcomes

During the month of July 2026, 23 cases were identified as FLOCK successes, resulting in 12 cases being cleared.

Success is defined as an arrest, investigative lead, warrant, or traffic stop that has been explicitly associated with a hit generated by a FLOCK device.

Of the 23 successful cases:

- 9 resulted in the recovery of stolen vehicles.
- 12 resulted in arrests or the issuance of warrants.
- 8 generated investigative leads.
- 1 investigation remains in progress.

These outcomes are only captured when the investigating officer completes the outcome section within the FLOCK system.

Vigilant LEARN

Users

On the date the data was pulled, there were 516 user accounts in the database. Of those, 68 were in active status and 4 were closed. The remaining accounts were either pending or inactive. During the reporting period, 32 users logged into the system.

Devices

The database of cameras utilized in the Vigilant LEARN system is made up of a multitude of agencies and commercial entities all over the country. Raleigh PD does not maintain any mobile devices.

Transactions

During the month of July 2026, there were 795 queries conducted in the Vigilant LEARN database. Only five users searched without a case number; however, each included sufficient information to confirm the search was conducted for a legitimate law enforcement purpose. To ensure compliance with NCGS 132-1.4 C1, the nature of the violation or apparent violation of the law reported to a public law enforcement agency would need to be added in the search. A report number would also meet the minimum requirements.

Outcomes

The Vigilant LEARN system does not maintain this type of information.

Recommendations:

Officers need to complete the outcome section within the FLOCK system to ensure the data collected and reported is accurate and complete. Please consider allowing less restrictive information to be used as a valid reason code when conducting searches with FLOCK or Vigilant. According to NCGS 132-1.4(C1), the “nature of the violation or apparent violation of the law” is an acceptable reason for an inquiry and should be included in the DOI once it is revised.

Please contact Lt. B.M. Norton with any questions or concerns.